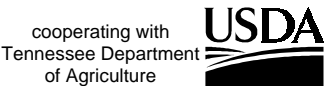




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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WHEAT GROWERS ENJOY ANOTHER EXCELLENT YEAR

Wheat yields in Tennessee are estimated at 52 bushels per acre, second only to a year ago as the highest on record, according to the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service. Once again wheat growers experienced excellent conditions for the majority of the growing and harvesting seasons. Some areas had difficulty with insects and disease, but for the most part, farmers were able to overcome these obstacles with the proper treatments. In those few fields where disease pressure was significant, the wheat was cut for hay. Crop condition ratings were mostly good-to-excellent throughout April and declined only slightly during May. Dry, June weather enabled farmers to make excellent harvest progress, and by month's end, was 94 percent complete. This trailed behind last year's rapid harvest, but ahead of normal by four points.

Tennessee wheat production was estimated at 18.2 million bushels, down slightly from last year. Last fall, 550,000 acres of wheat were sown, of which 350,000 were harvested for grain.

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.59 billion bushels. This is down 2 percent from last month and down 7 percent from 1999. The U.S. yield is forecast at 44.9 bushels per acre, down 1.8 bushels from last month.

WINTER WHEAT: TENNESSEE, SURROUNDING STATES, AND U.S., JULY 1, 2000 WITH COMPARISONS ¹

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	920	1,110	56.0	56.0	51,520	62,160
Georgia	225	240	43.0	52.0	9,675	12,480
Kentucky	410	420	60.0	58.0	24,600	24,360
Mississippi	165	195	50.0	50.0	8,250	9,750
Missouri	920	1,000	48.0	52.0	44,160	52,000
North Carolina	580	550	49.0	50.0	28,420	27,500
Tennessee	340	350	54.0	52.0	18,360	18,200
Virginia	240	205	57.0	60.0	13,680	12,300
United States	35,572	35,401	47.8	44.9	1,699,989	1,588,376

¹2000 forecast, 1999 final.

TENNESSEE PEACH CROP DAMAGED BY DOUBLE FREEZE

As of July 1, the 2000 peach crop is forecast at 2.0 million pounds, down 35 percent from 1999 and the smallest crop since 1996. A mild winter helped promote crop development and virtually all the State's trees had reached the blooming or beyond stage by mid-April. The crop, however, suffered a setback with a freeze in late March and again in April, reducing this year's crop potential. The affects of the freeze damage varied considerably over the State because of differences in sites. Also, many trees were not in ideal condition due to last year's drought. Producers that were not able to treat their crop in a timely manner, also suffered insect damage and brown rot losses.

U.S. peach production is forecast at 2.67 billion pounds, up 6 percent from 1999 and 11 percent above two years ago. All peach producing States west of the Mississippi river, with the exception of Missouri, expect the same or increased peach production for 2000.

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